

State Of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of State Parks
Honolulu, Hawaii

May 11, 2007

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

SUBJECT: Request for Special Use Permit to Hold the 2008 International
Haari Boat Festival on a Portion of Wailoa River State Recreation
Area, Hilo, Hawaii

Hui Okinawa is requesting a special use permit on a portion of the Wailoa River State Recreation Area (Event Area) to host the 2008 International Haari Boat Festival (Event).

The Wailoa River State Recreation Area (SRA) has been the site of past Haari Boat Races.

In 1990, a statewide celebration commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Okinawan emigration to Hawaii was observed. As part of the celebration, a Haari Boat Race Festival was held at the Wailoa River SRA during the Admission Day weekend utilizing Haari Boats donated to Hui Okinawa by the people of Nago City, Okinawa. The Festival was such a success that it was held annually until 1996.

After a brief absence, the Festival was again held to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Okinawan emigration to Hawaii. The Y2K Festival was one of the State's Hawaii 2000 Millennium Commission Events.

The last Haari Board Race Festival was held in 2002 at the Wailoa River SRA.

By letter dated February 24, 2007 (Exhibit A), the Honorable Harry Kim, Mayor of the County of Hawaii and Ms. Patti Taira-Tokuuke, President of Hui Okinawa, has provided a general overview of the Event and a rough timeline.

"The purpose of the 2008 International Haari Boat Festival is to foster cultural understanding and camaraderie through a series of friendly boat racing competitions, music, food, dance, a luau, and Okinawan and Hawaiian arts and crafts booths. More than 2,500 people have attended previous Haari Boat Festivals ... and we anticipate an even larger crowd next year. During his recent visit to Hilo, Mayor Shimabukuro of Nago City, Japan (one of Hawai'i County's Sister Cities for more than 20 years), pledged that he would bring his championship Haari Boat team and more than 200 guests from Okinawa to participate in the activities.

The event would be open and free to the general public, and would feature canoe clubs and Haari Boat teams from throughout the Hawaiian Islands and around the world. In addition to the commitment from Nago City, current partners in this endeavor include the County of Hawai'i (Mayor's Office, Parks and Recreation Department and Department of Research and Development); Hui Okinawa, and numerous canoe clubs from Hawai'i Island and neighborin islands.

The International Haari Boat Festival would take place on Saturday, August 16th from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. However, we would like to request use of the park from Friday, August 15th, beginning at 8:00 AM, through Saturday, August 16th at 11:00 PM to allow for set-up, on-site food preparation, practice rounds for Haari teams, the competition and festival, a post-event luau, break down and clean up.”

Further, the letter states,

“We realize that the Department of Land and Natural Resources does not normally consider applications for use of the park more that one year before the event, and we would like to respectfully request that you waive that policy, as this International festival will require a tremendous amount of advanced planning, coordination and marketing, and will take more than one year to finalize. We'd like to begin our outreach efforts now and need to insure that the date of the festival is firm and that the use of the park has been approved by the Land Board before we begin.”

Finally, the letter requests,

“that the policy restricting cash sales in the park be waived for this event. Through the sale of plate lunches, packaged foods, Okinawan products, crafts and T-shirts, festival organizers will earn the funds that pay for the Festival. Proceeds in excess of Festival expenses will go to support Hui Okinawa's mission to promote and foster an understanding and appreciation of the Okinawan culture, provide day camps for island children, and purchase Taiko drums and sponsor visiting artists at musical and dance performances throughout the year.”

The Wailoa River State Recreation Area is an ideal venue for the Event. The Event Site can accommodate a large crowd and the spectators will be able to view the entire boat race from either side of the river bank. In past Events, the race followed a looped course with three (3) boats entered in each race.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

- A. Waive its facilities reservation policy of “not more than one (1) year in advance” to facilitate the planning and marketing of the 2008 International Haari Boat Festival. The waiver is for this event only.
- B. Approve the issuance of a Special Use Permit to Hui Okinawa (Permittee) to hold the 2008 International Haari Board Festival (Event) on a portion of the Wailoa River State Recreation Area (Event Site) for the period August 15-16, 2008, in accordance with the representatives above-mentioned, which are incorporated herein and subject to the following conditions whereby the Permittee shall:
 1. be allowed to operate food concession booths, vendor sales booths of Okinawan and Hawaiian arts, crafts and other products, sales booths of Event and/or Hui Okinawa related merchandise and to accept donations for the duration of the Special Use Permit, provided, the sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited;
 2. be responsible for daily clean up of the Event Site and spillover areas during the permit period and for the final clean up at the conclusion of the Event to the satisfaction of the department. The clean up shall include the disposal at an authorized sanitary landfill of all waste and rubbish generated during the Event;
 3. provide supplies (i.e.- toilet paper, soap, etc.) in the restrooms, as needed, and clean restrooms during the hours of the Event as well as monitor the cleanliness of the restrooms on an hourly basis;
 4. provide and hire security which shall include at least one (1) DLNR Conservation and Resources Enforcement Officer (CREO). Such DLNR CREO shall begin work at least one hour prior to the Event’s opening, shall be present at the Event Site during all hours of operation up to one hour after the closing of the Event. Other security personnel may include special duty Hawaii County Police Officer(s) and/or other licensed, uniformed security personnel, etc.;
 5. direct parking and traffic flow and provide and set up traffic cones and barricades as may be required;
 6. obtain all necessary County of Hawaii and State of Hawaii permits;

7. provide their own electricity. Use of power lines is permitted if the hookup is under the supervision of a licensed electrical contractor and the power is separately metered for billing to the Permittee or in lieu of such hookup, pay a fee of \$100 to the Division of State Parks for electricity usage. The Permittee shall be responsible for any damages incurred during the event and/or for services and repairs required during the event (i.e. - blown circuits, tripping of circuits, fire, etc.). Use of water, except for dust control, is permitted if not excessive;
8. be liable for repairs, replacement and/or payment for any damages incurred at the Event Site during the period of this permit;
9. provide security against serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages and use of illegal drugs;
10. waive any and all claims they may have against the State of Hawaii and its respective officers, agents and employees, and agrees to defend, hold harmless and indemnify the State of Hawaii and its respective officers, agents and employees from any suits, actions and claims arising out of and in any way connected with the activities permitted under the permit;
11. procure and maintain, at its own cost and expense, in full force and effect throughout the term of this Special Use permit, commercial general liability insurance, in an amount of at least \$500,000.00 for each occurrence and \$1,000,000.00 aggregate, with an insurance company or companies licensed to do business in the State of Hawaii. The policy or policies of insurance shall name the State of Hawaii as an additional insured. The insurance shall cover the entire Event Site, including all grounds and all roadways or sidewalks on or adjacent to the Event Site in the use or control of the Permittee;
12. operate food concession booths in compliance with all applicable State Department of Health rules and regulations and the Fire Code of the County of Hawaii;
13. schedule two inspections with a State Parks representative; the first, during the week prior to the start of set up for the Event and the second, upon completion of the break down and clean up of the Event Site. Permit conditions will be reviewed during the first scheduled inspection;
14. not obstruct or unreasonably interfere with the general public in their normal use of the Wailoa River State Recreation Area;

15. have only licensed, uniformed security personnel at the Event Site overnight;
16. pay a rental fee of \$100 per day for the Pre-Event set up, the Event and the Post-Event break down and clean up;
17. comply with any other conditions that may be imposed by the Department, the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Chairperson and/or rule revisions adopted prior to the commencement of the Event.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel S. Quinn
State Parks Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



PETER T. YOUNG, Chairperson

Harry Kim
Mayor



11-6 H
Dixie Kaetsu
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossov
Deputy Managing Director

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County of Hawaii

OFFICE OF STATE PARKS
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February 24, 2007

Peter Young
Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Request for Use of Wailoa State Park in Hilo, Hawai'i for the
International Haari Boat Festival August 15-16, 2008

Dear Mr. Young,

Hi Pete

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i and the members of Hui Okinawa we would like to respectfully request the use of Wailoa State Park, including the pond, bridges and banks, as well as exclusive use of the three pavilions located within the park boundaries for the International Haari Boat Festival August 15-16, 2008.

We realize that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) does not normally consider applications for use of the park more than one year before the event, and we would like to respectfully request that you waive that policy, as this international festival will require a tremendous amount of advanced planning, coordination and marketing, and will take more than one year to finalize. We'd like to begin our outreach efforts now and need to insure that the date of the festival is firm and that the use of the park has been approved by the Land Board before we begin.

The purpose of the 2008 International Haari Boat Festival is to foster cultural understanding and camaraderie through a series of friendly boat racing competitions, music, food, dance, a luau, and Okinawan and Hawaiian arts and crafts booths. More than 2,500 people have attended previous Haari Boat Festivals (the most recent one was in 2002) and we anticipate an even larger crowd this year. During his recent visit to Hilo, Mayor Shimabukuro of Nago City, Japan (one of Hawai'i County's Sister Cities for more than 20 years), pledged that he would bring his championship Haari Boat team and more than 200 guests from Okinawa to participate in the activities.

The event would be open and free to the general public, and would feature canoe clubs and Haari Boat teams from throughout the Hawaiian Islands and around the world. In addition to the commitment from Nago City, current partners in this endeavor include the County of Hawai'i (Mayor's Office, Parks and Recreation Department and Department of

EXHIBIT A

Research and Development); Hui Okinawa, and numerous canoe clubs from Hawai'i Island and neighboring islands.

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Hui Okinawa would be responsible for the management of this event, including:


- Carrying the liability insurance and naming DLNR as an additional insured;
- Providing safety boats and emergency responders for race participants and festival attendees;
- Providing parking facilitation for festival attendees within the park;
- Providing additional security for Wailoa State Park overnight the evening of Friday, August 15, 2008;
- Filing all of the required paperwork, including any additional state and county permits required for special use within the park including the luau (with hosted alcoholic beverages) in the pavilion on August 16, 2008;
- Providing on-site trash pickup and removal and cleaning all of the park facilities including the restrooms and pavilions both prior to and following the event; and
- Marketing and promotions of the event through international publications, websites and networking events in 2007.

Finally, we would like to request that the policy restricting cash sales in the park also be waived for this event. Through the sale of plate lunches, packaged foods, Okinawan products, crafts and T-shirts, festival organizers will earn the funds that pay for the Festival. Proceeds in excess of Festival expenses will go to support Hui Okinawa's mission to promote and foster an understanding and appreciation of the Okinawan culture, provide day camps for island children, and purchase Taiko drums and sponsor visiting artists at musical and dance performances throughout the year.

As the Festival program takes shape during the coming months, we will include your office in future project planning to insure that everyone's needs are met.

Should you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact either of us. Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to bring this international event to Hawai'i Island.

Sincerely,



Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i



Patti Taira-Tokuuke
President, Hui Okinawa